



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 458

January Session, 2003

Substitute Senate Bill No. 15

Senate, April 22, 2003

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. DEFRONZO of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING STATE GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 4-124w of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2003*):

4 (a) There is established an Office of Workforce Competitiveness
5 which shall be within the [Office of Policy and Management, for
6 administrative purposes only] Labor Department.

7 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 31-3h of the general statutes is
8 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
9 *1, 2003*):

10 (a) There is created [, within the Office of Workforce
11 Competitiveness established under section 4-124w,] the Connecticut
12 Employment and Training Commission. The Office of Workforce

13 Competitiveness, within the Labor Department, shall provide such
14 staff and other support as necessary for the commission to carry out its
15 duties and responsibilities.

16 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 31-11aa of the general statutes is
17 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
18 *1, 2003*):

19 (a) The Connecticut Employment and Training Commission [within
20 the Office of Workforce Competitiveness] shall produce, within
21 available appropriations, a report on information technology
22 workforce development, including a long-range strategic plan, that
23 addresses Connecticut's workforce and research needs as they relate to
24 information technology and electronic commerce. The commission
25 shall work with the Commissioners of Economic and Community
26 Development, Education and Higher Education and any business-
27 related association or organization that the commission deems
28 appropriate in creating a planning structure, no later than July 5, 2000,
29 to develop the plan. The planning structure shall include
30 representation from the Connecticut Employment and Training
31 Commission, the General Assembly, the Departments of Education,
32 Higher Education and Economic and Community Development,
33 Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, information technology and
34 software companies, the Connecticut Business and Industry
35 Association, the Connecticut Economic Resource Center, the
36 Connecticut Technology Council, The University of Connecticut, the
37 Connecticut State University system, the community-technical
38 colleges, Charter Oak State College, the Connecticut Distance Learning
39 Consortium, the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges and
40 any other representatives including regional and state-wide business
41 and technology associations the Connecticut Employment and
42 Training Commission and commissioners deem necessary.

43 Sec. 4. Section 18-24a of the general statutes is repealed and the
44 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2003*):

45 The Board of Pardons shall be [an autonomous body] within the

46 Department of Correction. [for administrative purposes only.] Said
47 board shall consist of five members, residents of this state. Biennially, a
48 member or members shall be appointed by the Governor, with the
49 advice and consent of either house of the General Assembly, to take
50 office the first Monday in June in the year of their appointment for a
51 term of six years to replace those whose terms expire. Three members
52 shall be attorneys, one shall be skilled in one of the social sciences and
53 one shall be a physician. Not more than three of such members holding
54 office at any one time shall be members of any one political party. The
55 board shall, biennially, elect its chairperson. The members of the board
56 shall be paid a per diem fee fixed by the Commissioner of
57 Administrative Services for attendance at each session of the board in
58 lieu of expenses. If any member has formed an opinion in any matter
59 that comes before it, said member shall not act concerning the same,
60 but no member shall be disqualified by reason of having formed an
61 opinion thereon at any former application for pardon by the same
62 applicant. When at any session any member is absent or disqualified,
63 the Governor may appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy, and
64 the person so appointed shall have the same power as any other
65 member during such absence or disqualification. The person
66 appointed by the Governor to fill a temporary vacancy need not
67 necessarily possess the particular occupational or political
68 qualifications of the member whose place such person is temporarily
69 taking.

70 Sec. 5. Section 54-124a of the general statutes is repealed and the
71 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2003*):

72 (a) There shall be a Board of Parole [which, on and after July 1,
73 1998,] within the Department of Correction which shall consist of
74 fifteen members, including a chairman and two vice-chairmen who
75 shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of
76 either house of the General Assembly. The chairman and vice-
77 chairmen shall be qualified by training, experience or education in law,
78 criminal justice, parole matters or other related fields for the
79 consideration of the matters before them and the other members shall

80 be qualified by training and experience for the consideration of matters
81 before them. In the appointment of the members, the Governor shall
82 endeavor to reflect the racial diversity of the state.

83 (b) The term of the chairman and the term of each vice-chairman of
84 the board shall be coterminous with the term of the Governor or until a
85 successor is chosen, whichever is later. The terms of all members,
86 except the chairman, shall expire on July 1, 1994, and on or after July 1,
87 1994, members shall be appointed in accordance with subsection (a) of
88 this section as follows: Six members shall be appointed for a term of
89 two years; and six members shall be appointed for a term of four years.
90 Thereafter, all members shall serve for terms of four years. Any
91 vacancy in the membership of the board shall be filled for the
92 unexpired portion of the term by the Governor.

93 (c) The chairman [and vice-chairmen] shall devote [their entire] full
94 time to the performance of [their] the duties hereunder and shall be
95 compensated therefor in such amount as the Commissioner of
96 Administrative Services determines, subject to the provisions of section
97 4-40. The other members of said board shall receive one hundred ten
98 dollars for each day spent in the performance of their duties and shall
99 be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of
100 such duties. The chairman or, in his absence or inability to act, a
101 member designated by him to serve temporarily as chairman, shall be
102 present at all meetings of said board and participate in all decisions
103 thereof.

104 (d) [Said chairman shall be the executive and administrative head of
105 said board and] The Commissioner of Correction shall have the
106 authority and responsibility for (1) directing and supervising all
107 administrative affairs of the board, (2) preparing the budget and
108 annual operation plan in consultation with the board, (3) assigning
109 staff to parole panels, regions and supervision offices, (4) organizing
110 parole hearing calendars to facilitate the timely and efficient
111 processing of cases, (5) implementing a uniform case filing and
112 processing system, (6) establishing policy in all areas of parole

113 including, but not limited to, decision making, release criteria and
114 supervision standards, (7) establishing specialized parole units as
115 deemed necessary, (8) entering into contracts, in consultation with the
116 board, with service providers, community programs and consultants
117 for the proper function of parole and community supervision, (9)
118 creating programs for staff and board member development, training
119 and education, (10) establishing, developing and maintaining
120 noninstitutional, community-based service programs, and (11)
121 [consulting with the Department of Correction on shared issues
122 including, but not limited to, prison overcrowding, and (12)] signing
123 and issuing subpoenas to compel the attendance and testimony of
124 witnesses at parole proceedings. Any such subpoena shall be
125 enforceable to the same extent as subpoenas issued pursuant to section
126 52-143.

127 (e) The chairman shall have the authority and responsibility for
128 assigning members to panels, each to be composed of two members
129 and the chairman or a member designated to serve temporarily as
130 chairman, for each correctional institution. Such panels shall be the
131 paroling authority for the institutions to which they are assigned and
132 not less than two members shall be present at each parole hearing.

133 (f) In the event of the temporary inability of any member other than
134 the chairman to perform his or her duties, the Governor, at the request
135 of the board, may appoint a qualified person to serve as a temporary
136 member during such period of inability.

137 (g) The Board of Parole shall: (1) Adopt an annual budget and plan
138 of operation, (2) adopt such rules as deemed necessary for the internal
139 affairs of the board, (3) develop policy for and administer the
140 operation of the Interstate Parole Compact, and (4) submit an annual
141 report to the Governor and General Assembly.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	July 1, 2003
Sec. 2	July 1, 2003

Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2003</i>

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Type	FY 04 \$	FY 05 \$
Office of Workforce Competitiveness	GF - Savings	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal
Department of Labor	None	None	None
Department of Correction; Board of Parole	GF - Savings	\$229,510	\$238,659

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill transfers the Office of Workforce Competitiveness (OWC) from the Office of Policy and Management (where it is located there currently for administrative purposes) to the Department of Labor (DOL). The bill further requires OWC to staff the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission (CETC), which they currently provide staff support. It is anticipated that savings will not result from these provisions in the bill. However, to the extent that OWC co-locates with DOL a minimal savings from leasing costs would result.

In addition, the bill makes the Board of Pardons part of the Department of Correction (DOC). While it is an autonomous body, the Board is currently within DOC for administrative purposes. The total General Fund FY 03 appropriation for the Board consists of funding (\$32,534) in the Other Expenses account. The bill would not result in any fiscal impact to the state since it is anticipated that this funding in total would be transferred to DOC.

The bill also moves the Board of Parole into DOC and eliminates the requirement that there be two vice chairmen to the Board. According to the Governor's FY 04 and FY 05 recommended budget, this merger

would result in savings of \$229,510 in FY 04 and \$238,659 in FY 05. These savings reflect the elimination of 3 existing positions.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 15

AN ACT CONCERNING STATE GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION**SUMMARY:**

This bill:

1. transfers the Office of Workforce Competitiveness (OWC) from the Office of Policy and Management (where it is located for administrative purposes only) to the Labor Department;
2. requires OWC to staff and provide support services to the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission, but removes the commission from within OWC;
3. makes the Board of Pardons part of the Department of Correction, (DOC) where it is currently an autonomous body for administrative purposes only; and
4. moves the Board of Parole, which is currently an independent agency, into DOC.

The bill deletes the requirement that the two vice-chairmen of the parole board serve full-time and shifts the authority for exercising specific board responsibilities from the chairman to the DOC commissioner. Those duties include (1) directing and administering the board's administrative affairs; (2) preparing its budget; (3) assigning staff; (4) organizing parole hearing calendars and implementing a case management system; (5) establishing policy; (6) establishing specialized parole units, as necessary; (7) entering contracts with service providers, community programs, and consultants; (8) creating staff and board member training programs; (9) managing noninstitutional, community-based service programs; and (10) signing and issuing subpoenas to compel witnesses and testimony at parole proceedings. The bill removes the requirement that the board consult with the commissioner on issues including prison overcrowding.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2003

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 16 Nay 0